

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on April 13, 2017: Yeas 137, Nays 1, 3 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 24, 2017: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Approved June 15, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017.

**A WRIT OF MANDAMUS BY A COURT OF APPEALS AGAINST
AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE IN CERTAIN CASES**

CHAPTER 1013

H.B. No. 1480

AN ACT

relating to a writ of mandamus by a court of appeals against an associate judge in certain cases.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 22.221(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Each court of appeals for a court of appeals district may issue all writs of mandamus, agreeable to the principles of law regulating those writs, against [a]:

(1) a judge of a district or county court in the court of appeals district; ~~or~~

(2) a judge of a district court who is acting as a magistrate at a court of inquiry under Chapter 52, Code of Criminal Procedure, in the court of appeals district; *or*

(3) *an associate judge of a district or county court appointed by a judge under Chapter 201, Family Code, in the court of appeals district for the judge who appointed the associate judge.*

SECTION 2. Section 22.221(b), Government Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to a suit filed under Chapter 45, Title 1, Title 4, or Title 5, Family Code, on or after the effective date of this Act. A suit filed under Chapter 45, Title 1, Title 4, or Title 5, Family Code, before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the suit was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on May 9, 2017: Yeas 145, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 24, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 15, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017.

**ABOLITION OF THE FEE ESTABLISHED BY THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE FOR
PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR TERMINAL FACILITY
DISCHARGE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE CERTIFICATES**

CHAPTER 1014

H.B. No. 1481

AN ACT

relating to the abolition of the fee established by the commissioner of the General Land Office for processing applications for terminal facility discharge prevention and response certificates.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 40.112, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 40.112. **ISSUANCE.** On compliance with Sections 40.109 through 40.111 ~~[of this code and on payment of the certificate application fee]~~, the commissioner shall issue the applicant a discharge prevention and response certificate covering the terminal facility.

SECTION 2. Section 40.110(e), Natural Resources Code, is repealed.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on April 27, 2017: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 3 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 24, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 15, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017.

**PEER SPECIALISTS, PEER SERVICES, AND THE PROVISION
OF THOSE SERVICES UNDER THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

CHAPTER 1015

H.B. No. 1486

AN ACT

relating to peer specialists, peer services, and the provision of those services under the medical assistance program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0999 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0999. **PEER SPECIALISTS.** (a) *With input from mental health and substance use peer specialists and the work group described by Subsection (b), the commission shall develop and the executive commissioner shall adopt:*

(1) *rules that establish training requirements for peer specialists so that they are able to provide services to persons with mental illness or services to persons with substance use conditions;*

(2) *rules that establish certification and supervision requirements for peer specialists;*

(3) *rules that define the scope of services that peer specialists may provide;*

(4) *rules that distinguish peer services from other services that a person must hold a license to provide; and*

(5) *any other rules necessary to protect the health and safety of persons receiving peer services.*

(b) *The commission shall establish a stakeholder work group to provide input for the adoption of rules under Subsection (a). The work group is composed of the following stakeholders appointed by the executive commissioner:*

(1) *one representative of each organization that certifies mental health and substance use peer specialists in this state;*

(2) *three representatives of organizations that employ mental health and substance use peer specialists;*

(3) *one mental health peer specialist who works in an urban area;*

(4) *one mental health peer specialist who works in a rural area;*

(5) *one substance use peer specialist who works in an urban area;*